

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently Amended) A method for managing outbound message usage, comprising:
  - determining a count of each recipient for each outbound message associated with a client;
  - if the count of each recipient is at least equal to a limit over at least one period of time, providing a visual challenge to the client; and
  - if the provided visual challenge is unresolved, disabling the client's outbound message usage until the visual challenge is resolved, wherein the client's outbound message usage includes a message composed by the client before the providing of the visual challenge to the client, and wherein disabling the client's outbound message usage occurs prior to sending the composed an outbound message for the client over a network from a messaging system employed to originate each outbound message associated with the client.
2. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising if at least one outbound message associated with the client is indicative of spam for at least one recipient, providing the visual challenge to the client.
3. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the visual challenge further comprises an auditory challenge, and wherein until at least one of the visual challenge and the auditory challenge is resolved, disabling the client's outbound message usage.
4. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the visual challenge includes at least one Captcha test.
5. (Previously amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the visual challenge further comprises an auditory challenge, and wherein the auditory challenge includes at least one sound clip that is filtered to distort the playing of the sound clip for the auditory challenge.

6. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising:  
determining another count for each attempt to resolve the visual challenge; and  
if the other count for each attempt is at least equal to another limit, disabling the client's  
outbound message usage.

7. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising if the provided visual  
challenge is unresolved over a predetermined period of time, disabling the client's outbound  
message usage.

8. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising if the visual challenge is  
resolved, resetting the count for each recipient of each outbound message associated with the  
client.

9. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein a type of the message includes at  
least one type of email, blog, message board, Short Message Service (SMS), Multi-Media  
Message Service (MMS), and instant messaging (IM).

10. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising if the client's outbound  
message usage is disabled, providing instructions for an out of band communication by the client  
for re-enabling the client's outbound message usage.

11. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising employing a recipient  
count statement to determine the count for each recipient for each outbound message associated  
with the client, wherein the recipient count statement determines at least one of a current hour  
recipient count, a current daily recipient count, and a total recipient count.

12. (Currently Amended) A client for enabling management of outbound  
message usage, comprising:

a memory for storing instructions; and

a processor for enabling the processing of instructions to perform actions,

including:

enabling a determination of a count of each recipient for each outbound message associated with the client;

if the count of each recipient is at least equal to a limit over at least one period of time, enabling a visual challenge to be provided to the client; and

if the provided visual challenge is unresolved, enabling a disablement of the client's outbound message usage until the visual challenge is resolved, wherein the client's outbound message usage includes an ability to send a message composed by the client before the visual challenge is enabled to be provided to the client, and wherein enabling a disablement of the client's outbound message usage occurs without employing the ability to send the composed prior to sending an outbound message for the client over a network from an outbound message server employed by the client to originate each outbound message associated with the client.

13. (Original) The client of Claim 12, wherein the actions further comprise if at least one outbound message associated with the client is indicative of spam for at least one recipient, enabling the visual challenge to be provided to the client.

14. (Original) The client of Claim 12, wherein the visual challenge further comprises an auditory challenge, and wherein until at least one of the visual challenge and the auditory challenge is resolved, disabling the client's outbound message usage.

15. (Original) The client of Claim 12, wherein the actions further comprise:  
enabling a determination of another count for each attempt to resolve the visual challenge; and

if the other count for each attempt is at least equal to another limit, enabling a disablement of the client's outbound message usage.

16. (Original) The client of Claim 12, wherein the actions further comprise if the provided visual challenge is unresolved over a predetermined period of time, enabling a disablement of the client's outbound message usage.

17. (Original) The client of Claim 12, wherein the actions further comprise if the visual challenge is resolved, enabling a resetting of the count for each recipient of each outbound message associated with the client.

18. (Original) The client of Claim 12, wherein a type of the message includes at least one type of email, blog, message board, Short Message Service (SMS), Multi-Media Message Service (MMS), and instant messaging (IM).

19. (Original) The client of Claim 12, wherein the actions further comprise if the client's outbound message usage is disabled, providing instructions for an out of band communication by the client for re-enabling the client's outbound message usage.

20. (Original) The client of Claim 12, wherein the actions further comprise enabling a recipient count statement to determine the count for each recipient for each outbound message associated with the client, wherein the recipient count statement determines at least one of a current hour recipient count, a current daily recipient count, and a total recipient count.

21. (Currently Amended) A server for enabling management of outbound message usage, comprising:

a memory for storing instructions; and

a processor for enabling the processing of instructions to perform actions,

including:

enabling a determination of a count of each recipient for each outbound message associated with a client;

if the count of each recipient is at least equal to a limit over at least one period of time, enabling a visual challenge to be provided to the client; and

if the provided visual challenge is unresolved, enabling a disablement of the client's outbound message usage until the visual challenge is resolved, wherein the client's outbound message usage includes sending each outbound message for the client from the server

over a network connecting the server to each recipient, and wherein enabling a disablement of the client's outbound message usage ~~disables occurs prior to sending, from the server, a an~~ ~~outbound message associated with enabling the visual challenge to be provided to for the client .~~

22. (Original) The server of Claim 21, wherein the actions further comprise if at least one outbound message associated with the client is indicative of spam for at least one recipient, enabling the visual challenge to be provided to the client.

23. (Original) The server of Claim 21, wherein the visual challenge further comprises an auditory challenge, and wherein until at least one of the visual challenge and the auditory challenge is resolved, disabling the client's outbound message usage.

24. (Original) The server of Claim 21, wherein the actions further comprise:  
enabling a determination of another count for each attempt to resolve the visual challenge; and  
if the other count for each attempt is at least equal to another limit, enabling a disablement of the client's outbound message usage.

25. (Original) The server of Claim 21, wherein the actions further comprise if the provided visual challenge is unresolved over a predetermined period of time, enabling a disablement of the client's outbound message usage.

26. (Original) The server of Claim 21, wherein the actions further comprise if the visual challenge is resolved, enabling a resetting of the count for each recipient of each outbound message associated with the client.

27. (Original) The server of Claim 21, wherein a type of the message includes at least one type of email, blog, message board, Short Message Service (SMS), Multi-Media Message Service (MMS), and instant messaging (IM).

28. (Original) The server of Claim 21, wherein the actions further comprise if the client's outbound message usage is disabled, providing instructions for an out of band communication by the client for re-enabling the client's outbound message usage.

29. (Original) The server of Claim 21, wherein the actions further comprise enabling a recipient count statement to determine the count for each recipient for each outbound message associated with the client, wherein the recipient count statement determines at least one of a current hour recipient count, a current daily recipient count, and a total recipient count.

30. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium encoded with instructions executable by a computer to cause the computer to perform actions for the management of outbound message usage, the actions comprising:

enabling a determination of a count of each recipient for each outbound message associated with a client;

if the count of each recipient is at least equal to a limit over at least one period of time, enabling a visual challenge to be provided to the client; and

if the provided visual challenge is unresolved, enabling a disablement of the client's outbound message usage until the visual challenge is resolved, wherein the outbound message usage comprises originating each outbound message associated with the client from the computer over a network coupled to the computer, and wherein enabling a disablement of the client's outbound message usage prevents, occurs prior to sending an outbound message for the client associated with the visual challenge.